

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

VALENTINE'S DAY.

The Observance of the Day—The Trade in Valentines.

The recurrence to-day of the yearly festival of St. Valentine brings with it the annual deluge of printed pictorial matter now displayed in store windows in every variety.

Previous to the time of the printed valentine the day was observed by the giving of hand-made valentines in the shape of substantial presents which lover gave to mistress or man to wife.

Though the prevalence of the custom of sending loving or other missives is not so general now as formerly, yet the trade in the article is considerable, and it is said by valentine dealers of the present time that nearly as many valentines are sent, taking the whole country into account, as ever.

The whole country is said to reach half a million dollars a year. The business is mostly in the hands of seven or eight firms, two of which are in Worcester, Mass., and one in Philadelphia.

These manufacturers receive orders from all parts of the Union, the Western States buying more than the East. A dealer in valentines says that twenty millions of the "comic" variety are sold in the United States every year, and a New York retail dealer sold fifty gross in less than a week last February.

The business is carried on by stationers and publishers, who are glad to avail themselves of this folly to fill up the dull season after the holidays. The latest and embossed paper, the wreaths of flowers, cupid and other figures, are imported from England and Germany and worked up here by girls, sometimes thirty or forty being employed by one firm.

The stock caricatures of the comic variety are reproduced from the same books as last year, while the fashionable and vulgar that affords material for a "hit" is seized upon for variety. These dainties are made at so trifling a cost that the manufacturers and retailers make their profits when they are sold for a penny.

As an insignificant as valentines seem, they furnish employment to hundreds of people for a portion of the year, and are in their way a basis of commerce.

This year the comic subjects appear to deal mostly with Fenians, politicians, and women's rights. Of course the caricatures of the various professions are hardly complimentary, though they are not wanting in a certain force and vigor.

We are pleased to say, from careful observation, that anything improper is carefully avoided. First-class houses in this special line print their names on their productions, so that in case Pat, who cannot read, purchases from a vendor equally illiterate, who knows the house he buys his stock from, he can be assured that his hit will not be a dud.

We look over at random a gross of pictures, and find fast young men and do. do. ladies. Heart breakers (male and female), quacks, milliners, aristocrats, funsters, humorists, barbers, tailors, contractors, thin legs, charmers, blowers, mischief-makers, termagants, dentists, junkmen, and Mr. Polke-you-nose-in-other-people's-business, etc. etc. If we are struck with the designs, we wish to say that the color which is put on rather crudely. Of course they all have their four or six lines of doggerel.

The increase of duty for the Post Office Commission on the 1st of February is considerable, even in this city. In New York last year 25,000 mail letters and 170,000 city letters in excess of the regular quantity were distributed during Valentine week, but this year it is thought that something like 500,000 can safely be counted on.

The recipients are mostly the servants of the various households, Bridget coming in for by far the largest share, though houses having pretty chambermaid here are besieged by the postman.

THE MINT.

Meeting of the Assay Commissioners.

Yesterday morning the Assay Commissioners assembled at the United States Mint, Chesnut street, above Fifth street, and under the direction of Judge Cadwalader as chairman and Henry C. Hickock, the Director's Chief Clerk, as secretary.

From the Secretary of the Treasury the usual communications were received. The package of reports of the Mint and the branches at San Francisco, Cal., and Carson City, Nevada, was opened and found to correspond with the records.

The respective committees on "weighing" and "assaying" were then appointed, and the commission adjourned until this afternoon, when the reports of those committees will be received and recorded in the minutes, and then after a frugal Government repast, the commission will adjourn sine die.

Before the adjournment yesterday Director Pollock introduced some desiderata visitors from the Treasury Department of Japan, sent over here by their Government to examine the financial system of the United States, viz: Jushe or Prince Hirakawa, (Assistant Minister of Finance, and Takao, (Secretary of the Treasury).

They are both young looking men, not over thirty years of age, and about five feet six inches in height; dressed in fashionable American style, speaking English, French, and Italian, and intellectually, very bright and intelligent.

The Director also introduced Professor Francis Bowyer Miller, of the Mint at Sidney, Australia. The Assistant Japanese Minister of Finance, Prince Ito, is stopping at the Continental.

THE FERRY FIGHT IN CAMDEN.—The Court-house at Camden was crowded in every part by the citizens in mass meeting assembled to protest against the aggressions of the ferry monopolists against the rights of the people.

The most enthusiasm prevailed. After speeches made by John A. Scovel, George W. Wharton, and several other prominent citizens, the meeting proceeded to nominate candidates for Council in each of the eight wards of the new city, with the following result:—First ward, Colonel Wm. B. Wood; Second, George W. Wharton; Third, William Nash; Fourth, David Burwell; Fifth, Mark B. Willis; Sixth, John R. Cunningham; Seventh, John Wilson; Eighth, Colonel H. A. Hollishead.

After the Council ticket was made Colonel Scovel, in response, said he would fight on the people's right to the end, but neither accepted nor declined the nomination.

A FIGHTING CHARACTER.—About a quarter past 1 o'clock this morning, William Conahan was arrested by Policeman James Conahan of the sixth district, for disorderly conduct on the public highway.

SCRUYLLKILL NAVIGATION CO.

The Financial Condition of the Concern—Its Lease to the Reading Railroad Co.—The End of a Rivulet in Coal Shares—A Big Balance Unavailable for 200,000 Dollars.

This morning the annual meeting of the Schuylkill Navigation Company was held at No. 417 Walnut street. Mr. Frederick Fraley called the meeting to order and nominated Mr. A. Derivator as chairman, which was agreed to. Mr. William M. Tilghman was appointed secretary.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved. Mr. Fraley, the President of the company, read the annual report of the Board of Managers, from which we make this abstract:—

By the leasing of the works and the sale of certain real and personal estate to the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, under the resolutions adopted on the 23d of June last, the duty of providing for transportation and the collection of tolls ceased as of the 1st of June, 1870.

The care of the works was continued by us from the 1st of June until the 12th of July, per account of the railroad company, and on the last-named day the formal lease and other papers of conveyance were duly executed and delivered by both companies.

We have therefore to report, first, the income receipts of the company from the opening of navigation until June 1, 1870; and, secondly, the result of the whole year by combining with the income derived afterwards from all sources, and the application of the total income:—

Tonnage to June 1, 1870..... 23,349
Anthracite coal..... 64,138
Miscellaneous..... 6,138

Total tons..... 101,485
This shows a great difference compared with the business of 1869, but its falling off is fully accounted for by the continuance and very heavy, extraordinary features of the strike among the miners in the spring and summer of 1870.

The report of the Reading Railroad Company shows that from June, 1870, to the close of the season, the anthracite coal tonnage was 1,068,258 tons, or 1,068,258 tons, a quantity previously carried, a total of 527,301 tons, being a difference of 1,71,677 tons less than in 1869.

The income of the company to June 1, 1870, is stated as follows:—
Tonnage to June 1, 1870..... \$47,821.13
Rents of real estate and water power..... 6,440.90
Rents of office, buildings, etc..... 1,379.19

Total..... \$55,641.15
The charges to June 1, 1870, are thus stated:—
Current expenses for wages, etc..... \$188,734.97
Car and landing expenses..... 19,592.94
Drawbacks on coal trade..... 17,451.95

Total..... \$225,779.86
The interest on the boat and car loans of 1863 and 1864, and the taxes thereon, amounted to \$48,577.75, towards the payment of which we received from boatmasters \$85,051.01, leaving a deficiency of \$43,074.74.

During the same time we had to advance for the expense of the transportation of the sum of \$29,128.09. These differences against the income account of the company caused a very large increase of the floating debt, and, as there seemed to be a speedy termination of the stock, excited serious apprehensions of financial trouble on July 1, when a very large amount of interest fell due on the funded debt.

Up to June we were cheerfully and cordially aided by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company by the loan of securities, which we could not otherwise have obtained in anticipation of income, but their liberality of course had a limit, and it was therefore with very great satisfaction we had the pleasure of announcing to you in general meeting that a prospect long entertained by our President, and cordially united in by other wise advisers, was accomplished by the lease and agreement with the Reading Railroad Company.

Of the probable advantages of this arrangement to the railroad company, it is not proper for us to speak, but it terminated a rivalry of long standing, and a contest for full shares of the anthracite coal trade of Schuylkill county, which often was injurious to both, and as it placed your property in the way of yielding a steady and uniform income, we think we can very properly congratulate you on its consummation.

Under this arrangement we have had added to the income of the company since June 1, 1870, the following items:—
Rent from the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company..... \$655,000.00
Rents of real estate and water power..... 23,992.82
Tolls..... 125.19
Rents of office building..... 749.00
Interest on money..... 3,897.85

Total..... \$683,664.86
The charges for the same period were:—
Current expenses..... \$1,775.87
Car and landing expenses..... 5,775.87
Towing boats..... 830.92
Drawbacks on coal trade..... 5,439.13
Interest..... 369,018.27

Total..... \$1,960,533.84
The above statement comprising the above statement thus stands:—
Income..... \$683,664.86
Charges..... 1,960,533.84

Leaving a balance of..... \$111,622.48 to the credit of profit and loss. This balance is not available in any shape for dividends, as it is made up of items of property of doubtful value, and of claims which have heretofore been kept on the books awaiting final settlement and liquidation.

In order to start on real ground from January 1, 1871, all such accounts have been closed, and hereafter the income will be therent payable by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company and the charges upon it, the interest on the loans and bonds, mortgages, and dividends to the stockholders.

The total amount of fixed liabilities on the 28th of December, 1870, was \$12,458,725.67. Floating liabilities, 1,081,968.63. To meet these floating liabilities the company had on that day \$298,479.19, leaving a balance to be provided for of \$791,496.97.

To provide for the funding of this debt, there were held \$888,000 of the coupon 6 per cent. bonds of 1869, the payment of which is guaranteed, principal and interest, by the Reading Railroad Company, and secured by a mortgage of the works of the Schuylkill Navigation Company.

The fixed charges of the company are \$483,613.32. This amount deducted from the rent of \$683,664.86 would leave \$171,851.54 for the payment of the interest on the floating debt, current expenses, and dividends. As by the resolutions adopted for the carrying into effect the lease and agreement, it is provided that the common stock of the company shall always be entitled to one-half as much dividend as the preferred stock, it seems desirable that a consolidation of the two stocks should be now effected.

FIRE IN BUCKS COUNTY.

Barn Burned, with a Number of Horses and Cows and Quantities of Farm Stock and Material.

On Tuesday night, February 7, the barn of John Lyons at Bensalem, Bucks county, was destroyed by fire. Eight horses and six cows perished, and fifty tons of hay, twenty tons of corn fodder, a threshing machine, two corn-shellers, two hay rakes, and several other valuable tools and material were destroyed.

The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. Loss \$2250; insured for \$750 in the Mutual Insurance Company of Philadelphia.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.—The annual meeting of the Historical Society was held last evening at the hall, Sixth and Adelphi streets. An election was held for officers to serve for the ensuing year.

The librarian reported the monthly additions of books, etc., as follows:—Books, 72; pamphlets, 125; manuscripts, 1; works of art, 1. Among the latter is an oil painting relating to the aborigines of this country, received from John Loder, Esq., of Woodbridge, Suffolk, England.

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FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

There is an abundant supply of money in the market, and money, notwithstanding the rough weather, flows very freely, especially in speculative circles.

There is quite a good demand for stock loans, and rates are quite steady, but the supply is so ample that no difficulty is experienced in securing all that is required at 5 to 6 per cent. The latter figure is exceptional.

The general backwardness of trade checks the demand on regular business account, and tends to ease the market in this direction. We quote first-class names at 6 per cent. at the banks and from 6 to 7 1/2 per cent. on the street.

Gold is quiet and steady, with sales ranging from 11 1/2 to 11 3/4. Small amounts we notice no material change in price, and only a moderate activity. Stocks were dull and decidedly weak; sales of City 6s at 102 1/2 for the issues prior to '62; new issues sold at 101 1/2.

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FOURTH EDITION

LATER FROM EUROPE.

Miss Louisa Guelph's Dowry.

Revictualing of Paris.

French War "Contribution."

The Cession of Alsace.

The Steamer Tennessee

Further Reassuring Details.

The Andrews Statue in Boston.

FROM EUROPE.

The Princess Louise Gets Her Dowry and an Annual Allowance.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—Evening.—The House of Commons to-night, on motion of Mr. Gladstone, voted a dowry of £30,000 to the Princess Louise, and an annual allowance of £6000. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Gladstone denied that the Prussians had placed obstacles in the way of

The Revictualing of Paris.

The Premier also said the Government had suggested to Prussia to make known the proposed terms of peace.

The Paris War Contribution.

VERMILLES, Feb. 13.—The bankers of Paris are fully provided with means to loan the city of Paris the 200,000,000 francs needed for payment of the war contribution.

The French have proposed a prolongation of the armistice. Favre expected at Versailles.

The Emperor will visit Berlin at the beginning of March to open the session of the Reichstag. The army and commanders, nevertheless, will remain in France until the end of the war.

The Advance to the Empire by Prussia.

BRUSSELS, Feb. 13.—The lower house of the Prussian Diet has approved the proposed advance of the fifty million thalers to the Empire.

The Cession of Alsace.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The *Industriel Association*, published at Strasbourg, contains a communication signed by "Prussian" to the effect that Germany will never restore to France the territory covered by the city of Strasbourg.

China Quiet.

The British Foreign Office has received a telegram dated Peking, January 26, at which date the north of China was in a perfectly quiet condition.

Collision at Sea.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The Guion steamship Wyoming and Cunard steamer Morocco met in collision in the Mersey, and the latter was so much damaged that she was run ashore to stop the leak.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Vessel Supposed to be the Tennessee—No Other Ship at the Mistaken Port.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Prompt inquiry at the Navy Department by the reporter of the Associated Press, upon the telegram being received here of the Tennessee having been sighted on the 28th of January, seems to indicate, judging from the probable whereabouts of other U. S. men-of-war in the Gulf of Mexico, that the British captain who reports having sighted a vessel answering the rig of the Tennessee is right in his conclusions that such was the vessel observed.

The only two United States steamers stationed about the Gulf of Mexico similarly rigged to the Tennessee are the Severn, Admiral Lee's flagship, and the Congress, both of which, though somewhat smaller in their dimensions, have a resemblance to the Tennessee. The latest reports to the department almost preclude any idea that the steamer sighted on the 28th would be either of the Severn or the Congress, as they were at Kingston on the 20th, and was still in that port on the 28th, while the Congress was at Key West on the 24th, and the probabilities were strongly in favor of her remaining there for some time.

The Pacific, Nantasket, and Swatara, all much smaller and differently rigged from the Tennessee, are cruising about San Domingo, but it is hardly possible that either of them could be mistaken for the Tennessee.

The Chinese Steamship Sundry.

Special Despatch to the Evening Telegraph.

The Senate Appropriation Committee to-day agreed to increase the subsidy on the China service from California to one million dollars, the company to double their trips.

The Ocean Steamer Projects.

The Senate is engaged in considering a bill for a line of steamers from New Orleans to Mexico and a line to Australia.

The Modified Oath Case.

The Senate joint resolution that passed yesterday to allow Dr. Miller to take the modified oath will not pass the House.

FROM NEW ENGLAND.

Unveiling of the Andrews Statue.

BOSTON, Feb. 14.—Thomas Ball's marble statue of the late Governor Andrews was formally unveiled and presented to the Commonwealth to-day, the ceremony taking place in Doric Hall, the State House space being too limited. Only the Governor and staff, members of the Legislature, and the committee of presentation were admitted. The chairman of the Citizens' committee, William Gray, who produced the statue, made the presentation in an appropriate address, and was responded to by Governor Claflin on behalf of the State. The Governor's speech was an eloquent tribute to the memory of the distinguished citizen and able magistrate, whose virtue and patriotism they were assembled to honor. The statue is conceded to be a striking likeness and fine work of art.

FROM THE WEST.

The Newport Bridge Question.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 14.—Governor Stannard, as representative of the Merchants' Exchange, and Lee R. Shryock, President of the Board of Trade, left here last night for Washington, to oppose the erection of the Newport Bridge according to the present plans.

People's Fire Insurance Company.

No. 512 WALNUT Street.

CHARTERED 1869.

Fire Insurance at LOWEST RATES consistent with security. Losses promptly adjusted and paid. NO UNPAID LOSSES.

Assets December 31, 1870..... \$198,851.75

CHAS. E. BONN, President.

GEO. BUSCH, Jr., Secretary. 9 1